

WARTLING PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

11th January 2024

This meeting was held at the Reid Hall in Boreham Street.

63 Present

Councillors K Stevens (Chairman), C Paterson, W Reid and M Shine.

A Stevens (Clerk) and five members of the public were also in attendance.

64 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor B Bowdler and District Councillor Mark Fairweather.

65 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 1st November 2023

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 1st November 2023 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

66 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising

Any matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

67 Disclosures of Interests

There were no declarations of interests or changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

68 Reports from the County Councillor on matters from the County Council affecting this Parish.

County Councillor Bowdler sent a written report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

69 Report from the District Councillor on matters from the District Council affecting this Parish.

There was no report from the District Councillor.

70 Questions from Members of the Public

A resident reported a problem with the drains in Jenners Lane. Councillor Shine said he will carry out a site visit and report back.

The meeting was then re-opened.

71 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for commenting on at this meeting.

72 Reports

a) Planning

Councillor Stevens said the recent planning application for Rickards Farm (WD/2023/2546/F) has been refused by Planning Officers.

b) Environment

Councillor Shine said he has asked the Post Office to repair a damaged post box outside The Limes in Boreham Street.

c) Footpaths

At an earlier meeting Councillor Reid said there were some outstanding issues with footpath WRT/24/1. Rights of Way has now been in contact with the landowner who has agreed to replace two stiles.

A broken stile at Preston Farm and overgrown vegetation opposite Rickards Farm were also reported at that meeting and once the Clerk has the What3Words reference and photographs for each she will report both issues to the appropriate authority.

d) Highways

i. Councillor Shine reported:

- a) An issue causing delivery drivers and visitors confusion which relates to the section of the A271 known as The Strait. County Councillor Bob Bowdler has looked into the problem and recommends taking the issue up with the Electoral Registration department at Wealden which the Parish Council will now do.
- b) A drainage problem outside Rose Bank which, despite asking Southern Water to fix it, remains unsolved. He will now report the problem to Highways.

e) Police

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

f) Communication

Reports continue to be sent out via the village email distribution list. Anyone who is not included and would like to be is asked to contact the Parish Clerk.

h) Speedwatch

Three sessions were carried out in November and two in December. A total of three offences were recorded which compares favourably to the same period in 2011 when 15 offences were recorded. The Speedwatch Team started in 2011.

The Speedwatch Co-ordinator announced he is stepping down but said he is happy to stay on the team. Councillor Stevens said he will draft an advert for a new Co-ordinator. More volunteers are also needed.

i) Trees

There was nothing new to report.

73 Reports from outside meetings and courses attended

Councillors Stevens and Shine attended the East Sussex Association of Local Councils AGM and

Conference on the 14th November where they spoke to two councillors from Herstmonceux who offered to fit Herstmonceux Parish Council's black cat speed monitoring device and record its data which they will then give to Wartling Parish Council. In return the Wartling Parish Council will need to make a reasonable donation to Herstmonceux Parish Council. Councillors agreed to accept this offer.

74 Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

- To approve the payments list to the 11th January 2024. The payments were as follows;

		£
101036	A Stevens - Salary - November	560.00
101037	A Stevens - Salary - December	447.93
101038	HMRC - PAYE	38.60
101039	ESCC - Pension	283.23

- To approve the accounts to 29th November 2023.

75 Highways

- Wartling Parish Council has asked East Sussex County Council how much it would cost to have white lines painted on Wartling Road and Boreham Street. The County Council subsequently agreed to repaint the existing ones on the Wartling Road at its own cost and said they will give the Parish Council a price to paint ones on Boreham Street because they would be new ones.

The Parish Council also asked how much it would cost to get more hedges cut in the parish but will need to provide more detail for this too.

Councillors Stevens and Shine will meet to gather the information required.

- Councillors resolved to supply a grit bin at the junction of Wood Lane and The Strait. The bin will be supplied and fitted by the County Council and the £423.24 cost includes fitting and an initial fill. The Community Infrastructure Levy will be used to fund it.
- It was also resolved to repair the fingerpost by the Bull's Head at a cost of £654.20 plus VAT. The repairs will also be funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

76 Questions from Parish Councillors

There was no further business so the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – December 2023

Cllr Bob Bowdler - Wealden East Division

(Wealden East Division:- Heathfield, Horam, Hooe, Herstmonceux, Ninfield, Warbleton & Wartling parishes)

Cost of living payment set for February

Eight million people on means-tested benefits will receive a cost-of-living payment in February to help with high bills. Those on low incomes and receiving benefits such as universal credit are eligible but should be wary of scams – on legitimate payments, there will be a reference on a recipient's bank account of their national insurance number, followed by DWP COL, or the reference HMRC COLS for those who are eligible through tax credits.

The £299 payment will be made directly into bank accounts, without the need to make a claim, between 6 and 22 February.

This story was reported [nationally](#).

Funding boost to bolster green skills

Council bosses have welcomed funding that will help boost green skills and support the county's move to net zero. East Sussex County Council's Employability and Skills Team successfully bid for £240,000 from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to launch the Retrofit Skills East Sussex project.

As the project progresses, it is hoped that a range of activities, such as careers campaigns and subsidised training courses, will be offered to support the Retrofit Skills Plan. Updates on the project as it progresses can be found on the [council's website](#).
Read more about this story [here](#).

Winter events to take place in East Sussex libraries

A programme of free winter events for both children and adults is taking place in libraries across the festive season and beyond. The events will include author talks, festive crafts and activities, as well as storytelling experiences. On 27 January, Lewes Library and the Lewes Literary Society will host writer, illustrator and cartoonist Chris Riddell in a celebration of the well-loved illustrator Raymond Briggs.

Events are free, but booking may be required. For more information on the upcoming events, visit the Events section on eastsussex.spydus.co.uk. Read more about this story [here](#).

Winner of prestigious art prize announced in Eastbourne

Jesse Darling was announced as the winner of the Turner Prize at an event held at Eastbourne's Winter Garden, winning £25,000 in prize money. The four shortlisted nominees for the prize have had their work on display at the Towner Gallery since September 2023. The Turner Prize was established in 1984 and is one of the world's best-known prizes for the visual arts. It aims to promote public debate around new developments in contemporary British art.

Children's Services

Late December saw an Ofsted inspection team arrive at County Hall for an 'ILACS' inspection (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services). Ofsted completed their work on 15 December and we await their finding, which we anticipate sometime in February.

At my Lead Member meeting this month I was able to confirm that from April 24 there will be a further increase in the expenses we pay to our valued Foster Carers. This is in addition to the

increase in expenses I announced only a few months ago.

For your information: Meetings I attended in November as your County Councillor:

National Children & Adults Social Care Conference, Bournemouth

ESCC 4 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings

Gatwick Airport Noise Management Board 1

ESCC Highways Briefing – Ringmer

ESCC Children's Safeguarding

SE Regional LM & Directors Briefing 1

Gatwick Airport Annual Public Meeting

OFSTED Inspection - Interview

SE Regional LM & Directors Briefing 2

East Sussex Civil Military Partnership Board

Gatwick Airport Noise Management Board 2 (Technical)

ESCC Cabinet

East Sussex Health & Wellbeing Board

Visit to Heathfield Community Collage

ESCC Lead Member Children & Families

Meeting Balfour Beatty Community Engagement

OFSTED Inspection – Debriefing

Hooe Parish Council

Horam Parish Council – DNA

ESCC People Scrutiny Review Board

Herstmonceux Parish Council – DNA

Ninfield Parish Council – DNA

ESCC Children in Care Council – Hailsham

My thanks to you all for your support over the past year, working together for all our residents!

22 December 23

